

**Memorandum of the Meeting
Regular Study Session/Meeting
Twenty-Sixth Town Council of Highland
Monday, June 06, 2011**

The regular study session of the Twenty-Sixth Town Council of the Town of Highland was convened at the regular place, the Highland Municipal, 3333 Ridge Road, Highland, Indiana, in the plenary meeting chambers on **Monday, June 06, 2011** at the time of 7:06 o'clock p.m.

Silent Roll Call: Councilors Bernie Zemen, Mark Herak, and Brian Novak were present. Councilor Konnie Kuiper was absent, owing to a property issue. Councilor Dan Vassar, was absent owing to business related travel. A quorum was attained. The Clerk-Treasurer Michael W. Griffin was present to memorialize the proceedings.

Others present: John M. Bach, Public Works Director; Dan Repay, Executive Director of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission; George Van Til, Lake County Surveyor; Dan Gossman, Lake County Surveyor's Office; Dan Repay, Executive Director of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission; and Siavash Beik, P.E., Christopher B. Burke Engineering, LTD., were also present.

General Substance of Matters Discussed

1. The Lake County Surveyor presented and overview regarding the recent developments related to the Little Calumet Flood Control Project and the need to provide a stable source of finance for project completion and on going maintenance.

He noted that there were two legislative financing plans recently considered in the most recent session of the Indiana General Assembly, which did not pass. The Lake County Surveyor suggested that the previous legislative plans did not include the entire watershed of the Little Calumet River. The Lake County Surveyor further suggested his belief that it is preferable to have any solution place administrative responsibility and control, locally.

The Lake County Surveyor suggested the establishment of a conservancy district to address the needs just described. The proposed Calumet-Burns Conservancy District was described, in terms of structure, and geographic boundaries and financial design.

It was noted that two zones would be designated, one riparian and one non-riparian, each of which would have its own fee schedule, related to the property classification based upon use. The Lake County Surveyor suggested that the fees as designed were lower than those that had been the subject of a proposal that was considered in the recent session of the Indiana General Assembly.

The Lake County Surveyor noted that once the petitions or affirming actions of legislative bodies were sufficient, the matter would go before a Circuit Court Judge for a hearing. There would be also a required review by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources. The board would be non-partisan. He further noted that the fees in the first year were designed to be used by with or for the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission to complete the Flood Control project. The Lake County Surveyor noted that the proposal was a financing mechanism for completion and future maintenance of the flood control levees of the Little Calumet River. He further noted that it would not solve all problems.

A colloquy ensued between and among the Lake County Surveyor, Mr. Biek, Mr. Gossman and the members of the Town Council. With leave from the Town Council, residents present were allowed to pose questions or comment.

- I. Mike Echterling, 8129 Wicker Park Drive, Highland, inquired about the number of river or watershed commissions in the state and expressed concerns about the size of the proposed conservancy district as "unmanageable". Mr. Echterling also expressed concern about the structure of the district with representatives, who may favor an area rather than the "issues of the river."

- II. Rick Volbrecht, 9221 Parkway Drive, Highland, inquired whether or not the proposed Conservancy District would replace the Little Calumet River Basin Commission. Mr. Volbrecht inquired further about the manner in which elections would be conducted. Mr. Volbrecht inquired about the ways and means of collecting these fees.
- III. Dan Repay, Executive Director of the Little Calumet River Basin Development Commission, countered that the composition of the Commission is not 4 residents from Munster, but rather 2. He further suggested that the Commission had authority to fix fees and to conduct maintenance after construction. It

There were other questions, which included whether or not the Lake County Drainage Board be allowed to manage this program. In addition, clarification was sought regarding the mission being primarily for the Little Calumet River or the Little Calumet River Basin watershed. The discussion included whether or not there may be a problem with attaining a quorum, with nine members. There was a specific question regarding what would constitute a commercial or industrial and how the fees would compare.

Further, the discussion included an examination of how fees are designed or assessed for stormwater management. The discussion further included whether or not there would be an allocation of money towards maintenance and projects of improvement. The discussion included whether or not fees could be capped.

The Lake County Surveyor, Mr. Gossman, Mr. Biek, and Mr. Repay departed at this time.

2. The Public Works Director was present and initiated discussion about several matters pending with the Town Council. He noted that among these are the need to obtain new janitorial services for the building, the possible relocation of the office of the public works director from the Town hall to the public works facility, the recommendation of the hire of a mechanic, and the process of filling the vacancy in the position of General Supervisor of Public Works.
3. The Public Works Director discussed a recent order of non-compliance issued by the United States Environmental Protection Agency issued to the Department of Public Sanitation (Sanitary District) dealing with preventing untreated discharge into the Little Calumet River, which occurs during high water storm events. The Public Works Director suggested that owing to the additional issues associated with this matter, perhaps movement toward selecting a person for the General Supervisor position, who would be developed as a successor to the Public Works Director.
4. The Public Works Director discussed approaches to meeting the need to restore regular janitorial services to the Town Hall and the Public Works Facility. He suggested hiring only part-time people for this purpose, in order to keep costs down.

There being no further business to be discussed by the Town Council, the regular study session of the Town Council, of **Monday, June 06, 2011**, was adjourned at 9:15 o'clock p.m.

Michael W. Griffin, IAMC/MMC/CPFA
Clerk-Treasurer